AEC attracts news coverage, breaks recent attendance records

Nearly 4,000 attendees joined CSBA in San Diego Dec. 1-3 for the 2022 Annual Education Conference and Trade Show, breaking recent attendance records. The event included three insightful and moving General Sessions featuring nationally acclaimed educator and award-winning author of Miseducated, Brandon P. Fleming; New York Times bestselling author of Educated, Tara Westover; and conversations with experts on education funding and the state of public schools hosted by CSBA CEO & Executive Director Vernon M. Billy.
At the conclusion of the First General Session on Dec. 1, CSBA President Dr. Susan Heredia and President-elect Susan Markarian, surrounded by leaders of local educational agencies from across the state, led the Educate, Engage, Empower press conference highlighting boards’ successes and resourcefulness during a challenging period, previewing CSBA’s 2023 legislative priorities and making a case for ongoing investments to support student success. Their voices were heard around California as the pivotal moment was distributed by news organizations.

Attendees had the opportunity to attend 114 breakout sessions and 19 table talks at AEC covering topics including mental health, community schools, early learning, funding, effective governing, technology and cybersecurity, communication strategies and more. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to mingle with 117 exhibiting companies and learn about their services on the Trade Show floor.

For those who couldn’t make it to San Diego, all three General Sessions and 24 breakout sessions will be available online from Dec. 12 to Feb. 28. Click here to view on-demand packages and register by 3 p.m. on Dec. 9. Those who attended AEC in-person will have access to the on-demand content for free from Dec. 12-23. An email will be sent next week with instructions on viewing the sessions.

Register now for training opportunities in the new year

Commit to continued learning in the new year by registering for CSBA training opportunities. Registration is now open for the Masters in Governance® County Office of Education program covering foundations of effective governance/setting direction; student learning and achievement/policy and judicial review; finance; charter schools; and community relations and advocacy/governance integration. Registration is also open for the Student Board Member Training Session on Jan. 18, two cohorts of the Executive Assistance Certification Program (beginning in February) and CSBA’s Equity Network: Governance with an Equity Lens (beginning in February).

During the January student board member training, student trustees will gain an understanding of their role on the board in this specially developed CSBA course that explains their responsibilities and provides a solid foundation for effective governance practices. Topics including the governance handbook, effective communication strategies and how to appropriately use social media will be covered. Learn more about upcoming trainings and register »

School Boards in Action: 5 Questions with Lodi USD Board President Susan Macfarlane

In CSBA’s continuing effort to highlight the hard
work and effective practices of boards during these challenging times, the association’s 5 Questions blog series shares the experiences of board members around the state. Lodi Unified School District Board President Susan Macfarlane discussed efforts around learning recovery and academic advancements such as expansion of early literacy programs, professional development opportunities including a new teacher boot camp, starting a district TikTok account to highlight students and more. Read the interview »

CDPH: Order COVID tests now to avoid shipping delays

To avoid holiday shipping delays and ensure inventory is secured in case of a surge following winter break, the California Department of Public Health’s School Based Testing Team is reminding local educational agencies and schools to stock up on COVID-19 tests needed for routine testing through January 2023. Public schools and child care programs that are housed on K-12 campuses are eligible to place orders now and should try to do so by Dec. 9. Learn more »

Federal updates: Applications open for mental health service professional grants

Applications for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program are being accepted through Jan. 27. The program helps to fund innovative partnerships to train school-based mental health service providers who will go on to work in schools and local educational agencies. With a goal of addressing the shortage of mental health service professionals, there is an estimated $99.6 million in available funds. Funds are eligible to be obligated through March 31, 2023. Learn more »

In other federal news:

- The U.S. Department of Labor on Nov. 30 announced $90 billion in YouthBuild Program grant funding for pre-apprenticeships in industries such as construction, healthcare, information technology and hospitality. The program aims to remove academic and training barriers that young people ages 16 to 24 face. The grants will support occupational skills training, employment services and education guidance for youth in communities that have barriers to basic academic
Applications for workforce communities to nominate themselves to take part in the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration’s Youth Systems Building Academy (YSBA) are open through Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. YSBA lets local workforce systems and their community partners establish targeted and individualized training and technical assistance to support young members of the workforce. An information session will be held on Dec. 13. This is open to established and new programs. Read the invitation letter and the guidelines and instructions.

The Federal Communications Commission recently released a pre-production draft of new broadband maps, which give a picture of where high-speed internet is and isn’t available around the country.

State leaders reimagining partnerships to support youth mental health

With youth mental health needs at an all-time high, it is critical that education, health and other necessary sectors come together to ensure children and young adults have access to resources and services, according to state health officials. The State Board of Education recently received an overview of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, presented by Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of the California Health and Human Services Department.

The initiative is part of California’s Master Plan for Kids’ Mental Health, announced in August by Gov. Gavin Newsom as a long-term investment to ensure all children, parents and communities have increased access to mental health and substance use services. To more effectively address the children’s behavioral health crisis, leaders across state, health and education sectors need to come together to support students where they’re at — but as Ghaly noted, that can’t mean schools shoulder most of the weight. To be a true collaboration, various partners must understand one another’s limitations. Read more on the CSBA blog »

Streamlined superintendent hiring for districts and COEs

CSBA, in partnership with McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., offers the Executive Search Service to provide districts and county offices of education with a streamlined process to meet their executive hiring needs. From identifying possible candidates to the selection of a qualified superintendent, Executive Search Services offers an extensive and comprehensive
process that guides the board through this critical time with ease and professionalism. Learn more »

Stay up to date with the latest news and resources on the CSBA blog.

Virtual events

Student Board Member Spring Training Session
Jan. 18 | Register

MIG COE COURSE 1 Foundations of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
Jan. 27-28 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Kappa Cohort
Feb. 2-May 11 | Register

Governance with an Equity Lens - 2023
Feb. 4-May 6 | Register

Executive Assistants Certification Program - Iota Cohort
Feb. 10-April 21 | Register

MIG COE Course 2: Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
Feb. 24-25 | Register

MIG COE Course 3: Finance
April 1 | Register

MIG COE Course 4: Charter Schools
April 15 | Register

MIG COE Course 5: Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration
May 5-6 | Register

In-person events

County Board Governance Workshop
March 10-11 | Sacramento | Register

2023 Coast2Coast
April 24-26 | Washington, D.C. | Register